



# Maturango News

Maturango Museum: Preserve, interpret and develop an appreciation for the natural and cultural history of the Northern Mojave Desert.

100 E. Las Flores Ave. • Ridgecrest, CA 93555  
760.375.6900 www.maturango.org

Death Valley Tourist Center Northern Mojave Visitor Center

## Annual Fundraising Dinner & Auction --- October 1 --- Kerr-McGee Center

Tickets are available in the museum gift shop or on-line at our e-store [shop.maturango.org](http://shop.maturango.org)

### Museum Director's Notes

*By Debbie Benson, Director*



October 1 is our Fundraising Dinner & Auction! Buy your tickets and come spend an evening with friends, good food and plenty of opportunities to win something wonderful! Some of those wonderful items include vacation getaways, Milt Burford's steel Shaman sculptures, artwork from local artists and some fantastic and eclectic gift baskets. I hope to see you there!

I would like to thank our membership and the people of Ridgecrest and all of the IWV for the outstanding donations and support for our late summer and fall fundraising events. Our "Mirage Sale" and the Annual Fundraising Dinner & Auction brought in some wonderful donations that make it all possible! Thank you again for everything that is done to support and maintain our Museum. It does make a difference.

Becca showing off 2 of the auction donation items; a gourd banjo and a hand-made afghan by Susan Prazak.

It's time to come out to our Open Studio Tour on October 15 & 16 and spend some time with your favorite artists. Buy holiday gifts and enjoy an artful weekend.

Come in to the Museum's beautiful Gift Shop to purchase your tickets for the tour. Hope to see you!

This morning had a touch of coolness and I felt that sense of relief that autumn may actually be on its way. Flora and fauna in our gardens are all getting set for cooler days ahead. I am ready for it. We may not have all of the magnificent color changes of some places but, if you are really missing them, we do have some fairly close destinations that can give you some golden leaves and a beautiful drive (see article about Janet Westbrook's field trip on Oct. 8). If you need ideas come in to our Tourist Center and talk to our staff. They have maps and some great ideas for adventure. Come see us!

A big Thank You to the Peck Family Foundation for their donation towards the parking lot lighting!



## Museum Gift Shop

We now have handmade, beautiful, bright bracelets, earrings and necklaces from Organic Tagua Jewelry. Vegetable Ivory or Tagua, has the same appearance, density, and feel of animal ivory without doing any harm to any animals. And of course, Organic Tagua Jewelry has a commitment to Fair Trade practices. Come in and see how beautiful this jewelry is.



## Indian Wells Valley Search and Rescue Group Display



History Intern Katie McClain has completed a second display for the museum as her summer history internship winds down. The new display is about the Indian Wells Valley Search and Rescue group (IWVSAR) that existed for 51 years from 1963-2014. Bill Moen donated many of his personal rescue items and lots of photos and newspaper articles to the museum after the group disbanded. Katie interviewed Bill, Nicki Johnson and Dave Sanders to get a better understanding of this groups' function and responsibilities.

The IWVSAR got its start when 14 members of the Sidewinder Citizen Band Radio Club were sworn in as special deputies for the Kern County Sheriff's Department to fulfill a need for search and rescue on the eastern side of the Sierra's. The group specialized in mine and surface rescues and was called upon frequently by the Kern County Sheriff and other counties. The members of the group were innovative, highly trained and very dedicated. The display is in the south vestibule (former front door area).

## Open Studio Tour 2016

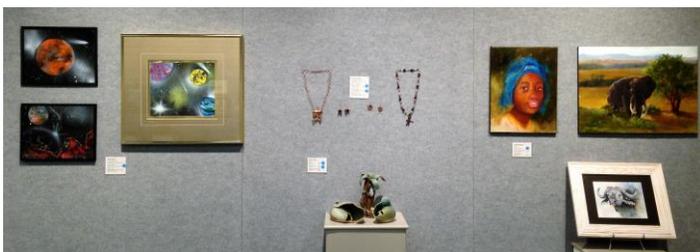
**Saturday & Sunday, October 15 & 16, 10 am – 5 pm each day.**

Here's how the Open Studio Tour works: purchase a \$10 ticket, available now in the museum gift shop, that includes a map to the 16 studios of the 29 participating artists. Art and crafts include ceramic sculpture, pottery, glass, paintings, woodworking, jewelry, and metalwork.

You pick the studios that intrigue you, then design your own self-guided tour and set your own pace. You can see them all, or just a few, as you wish. This will give you a chance to discuss art with the artists and see where they work. All the participating artists will have art pieces for sale at their studios.

Not only do you get a chance to appreciate and support local artists, you get a chance to find out the story behind that special art piece you might discover. This is a fund-raising event for the Maturango Museum.

Each artist also has their artwork displayed in the Open Studio Tour Artists' Exhibit at the Museum.



## **Petroglyph Tour Dates Now Posted on Museum's Website**

How long has it been since you visited the Coso Petroglyphs? The Fall Petroglyph Tour Season dates are now online at our website, [www.maturango.org](http://www.maturango.org). Also, check out our gift store (or see our online store) for books and DVD's about this specific canyon. Coso petroglyphs are world-famous, and are held to be the best in the Western Hemisphere for quantity and quality. There is still a spiritual feeling to Little Petroglyph Canyon that can excite and whisper directly to the modern subconscious across all those hundreds, even thousands of years since the designs were created. Words are superfluous; the feeling transcends time and language. Is there someone with whom you would like to share this cultural experience? Applications are now being accepted; these tours fill up quickly! Prices are \$45 for Museum members, \$55 for non-members.



## **Concert by Harpist Alexandra Calvert**

**Saturday October 29, 7 pm**

Alexandra will perform musical selections with selected images projected on the screen in a multi-sensory concert, entitled "Images". She will be performing music composed David Watkins, J.S Bach, Claude Debussy, Alphonse Hassellmans, Parish Alvars, G.F. Handel, Deborah Henson-Conant, Bernard Andres, Marcel Tournier, George Shearing and Carlos Salzedo.



A native of the Baltimore-Annapolis area, Alexandra has studied harp for over 20 years. Her musical training began at age 2 with the violin, and at age 4 fell in love with the harp while attending the Aspen Music festival. She has studied at the Johns Hopkins Peabody Preparatory and Baltimore School for the Arts with several teachers, and received her Bachelor's degree in Harp Performance with a minor in Art History at the Eastman School of Music, University of Rochester in 2012. Ms. Calvert has a vested interest in procuring a new method for teaching harp to young hands and minds. She received a Masters of Music Education from Old Dominion University in 2015. Her thesis focuses on ways teachers and performers may prevent injury. Ms. Calvert has a vast repertoire, including over two hundred orchestral and wind ensemble pieces. She has a passion for turn of the century French harp music in addition to Baroque and Romantic repertoire. Ms. Calvert held the position of Second Harp with the Virginia Symphony before moving to Ridgecrest, California in June 2016.

Ms. Calvert has recorded some of the lesser known choral works of Mendelssohn on the Loft Record/ Naxos Label with Christ Church Schola Cantorum. Ms. Calvert is also the first harpist in the history of the Eastman School of Music to be part of the Collegium Musicum as well as to form a harp and organ duo.

Ms. Calvert also enjoys playing pop, jazz, and blues music on harp. She often volunteers her music for hospitals and nursing homes. When not performing or teaching, Ms. Calvert enjoys painting/design, photography, cooking, helping her husband build their RV-8 airplane, flying, and playing with their Siberian husky, Kat. Ms. Calvert is also a member of Women in Aviation.

Seats are abundant, but it is still best to purchase tickets early in the museum store or online, [www.maturango.org](http://www.maturango.org). The ticket price is \$12 for adults and \$5 for children 12 years old and younger.

## Fieldtrip to Northern Owens Valley for Fall Colors with Janet Westbrook

October 8 – Owens Valley: Olancha to Bishop

Here's a sample of some of the interesting things we'll see on our Owens Valley field trip. October 8. Metal art at Olancha, DWP bird watching stations on Owens Lake bed, Mt. Whitney Fish Hatchery, Manzanar Cemetery, Owens River, lots of stuff from Olancha to Bishop, then the best part, pretty yellow and red leaves up Bishop Creek to Aspendel and South Lake.



Meet at the Museum at 8 a.m., bring a picnic lunch, water, clothing appropriate for changing fall weather, camera of course! We'll be back to Bishop by 5 p.m. and Ridgecrest by 7:30 p.m. unless you stop for dinner on the way home. Lots of interesting things to see in a very pretty place!! About 325 miles driving; paved except for smooth dirt roads out on Owens Lake. Details at [www.maturango.org/field-trips/](http://www.maturango.org/field-trips/) Tickets in museum gift shop or online at our e-store. \$25 members (\$40 for 2 members), \$30 non-members (\$50 for 2 people). Families encouraged -- especially well-behaved kids and dogs.

## Edward Curtis Photogravures in Argus Gallery

Edward Sheriff Curtis photogravures of Native Americans are on display in the Argus Gallery. Curtis, born in 1868, was a prominent photographer in Seattle, Washington. He became interested in Native Americans and their culture after attending one of the last performances of the "Sun Dance" ceremony practiced by the Sioux and other Plains Indians. Curtis wanted to document Indian tribes and their diversity of culture before it was too late.

Between 1900 and 1930, Curtis traveled from Mexico to the Arctic and from the Rockies to the Pacific Ocean photographing and recording more than 80 tribes. Three decades of travel and research amounted to over 40,000 photos, 20 volumes of ethnographic text, and several books of Indian stories. He died in 1952 virtually unknown and it wasn't until the 1970's that his work resurfaced and became appreciated. This exhibit will be on display through October 2016.



## Adopt a Critter by Donating to the Taxidermy Fund

*By Sherry Brubaker, Natural History Curator*

Curation taxidermy mounts run from \$100 to upwards of a \$1000 depending on the critter. The cormorant we have will be at least \$1000.

We are looking for sponsors for the critters languishing in the freezer. There are hummingbirds, owls (Long Eared, barn), water birds (bufflehead, cormorant, redhead), hawks (coopers), reptiles (lizards and snakes), and a squirrel. You may donate to the general taxidermy fund or sponsor a specific critter. Names of sponsors will be on the mount.

Contact Sherry at [sherry@maturango.org](mailto:sherry@maturango.org) for more information.

## Docent Doings

*By Nora Nuckles*

How fortunate we are! 7 people have expressed an interest in joining the Maturango Museum Docent League. We certainly are in need of new faces, new thoughts, and new energy! Many of these prospective docents were able to make our first meeting and others have contacted me to get current information. I think we are going to have a very fun, busy year!

Our September meeting was wonderful. Cam Alden decorated the tables with flowers and the officers set up and prepared a delicious, nutritious brunch to get us started correctly. In the same week we were privileged to have a presentation on bats given by Dr. Pat Brown, a renowned bat biologist and former director of the Maturango Museum. She shared special video clips of bats hunting for moths and frogs. There is so much to learn about bats; they are amazing animals. We were sad to hear that the white-nose syndrome, a fungus invading some bat species, has now been found in some bats in the state of Washington. This is the first known occurrence in the Western states. It was originally brought from Europe.

We will continue training on bats and bones in September and have training on classroom management at our October meeting. Our training sessions are appropriate for experienced and new docents. Also, individual docents often meet together to plan a specified program at a school. In addition we have notebooks with lots of information to read and Powerpoint programs anyone can study. We are always willing to work with any docent on a topic.

Carol and Cam have already given a workshop on the art element of "value" and are planning presentation times for the teachers' requests. Cam has also presented a lesson on the art element of "line".

Susan Moore brought Rosie, our pet rosy boa, and Collarina, our pet gopher snake, to the September Free Family Fun Day activities. Collarina is getting ready to shed; she is a beautiful color but no longer smooth and shiny until she sheds her old skin. Programs on Bats, Desert Alive, Coyotes, and Skulls and Skins are already set up. Children's Hour, our preschool story hour, is planned for Sept. 26 at 10:30 am. Paula and Mike Herr will bring the Beth Armogida Planetarium to the Cerro Coso Star Party on Friday, Sept. 30.

We will soon be planning for the eighth grade education program that will be given on Oct. 19, 20, and 21 to the eighth graders in the IWV. The program will be given at the Maturango Museum and Petroglyph Park a few weeks before the city Petroglyph Festival.

The Maturango Museum docents are off to a rip-roaring start to a fantastic year of representing the Museum as its ambassadors to the community! Please give me a call if you want to participate. We rarely have a dull moment! Call Nora at the museum at 375-6900.



Thank You to our artist / sign maker extraordinaire Jerry Bradley. [He's also a pretty good Board of Trustees president.]

## Donations and New Members as of October

### Donations

Mary Adler – in memory of  
Clint Spindler and Tony Magliari  
Ruby Allen  
Matthew Anderson  
Anonymous (8)  
Roger Becker  
Henry Blecha  
Jack and Judy Bradshaw  
Frank and Debby Buffum –  
in memory of Clint Spindler  
David and Jo Burdick  
Dan Burnett – in memory of Lloyd Brubaker  
Deane Campbell – in memory of Mary Lattig  
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Evelyn Knierim  
Kathy Lashure  
Arlyne Lopez  
Harry Mallory  
Bill and Kathy Martin  
Bruce McClung  
Andrew and Terry Mitchell  
Naomi Norris  
Peck Family Foundation –  
for exterior lighting project  
June Rooks  
Robert and Carrol Sewell  
Wayne and Kathy Silva  
Sherrill Van Sickle  
Robert and Sheila Rockwell –  
in memory of Leah Little  
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Barbara Tunget  
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Jennifer Venola  
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Michael S. Vincent

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Darlene Wheeler  
Wayne and Ingrid Zellmer

### Point of Sale Upgrade

Anonymous (3)  
Henry Blecha  
Harris and Pat Brokke –  
in memory of Mary Lattig  
Sherry Brubaker  
Leroy H. Corley  
Marlyn Heeke  
Edward and Barbara Jayne  
Leslie Layfield – in memory of Mary Lattig  
Kathy LaShure  
Pat Maddux  
Bill and Kathy Martin  
Nora and Richard Nuckles –  
in memory of Mary Lattig  
Valerie Rogers  
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Barry and Lynne Thompson  
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Warren's Automotive  
Mr. and Mrs. Wally Wright

### Building Fund

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Milt and Jane Burford  
Dolores D Pol  
Marsha Lloyd  
Bill and Kathy Martin  
Bea and Lloyd Smith  
Robert Westbrook  
Ken Wetzel  
Patty Wharton  
Richard and Vivian Wright

### New Members

Michelle Dalope  
Kelly Doty  
Jayline Gill  
Maria J. Guishard  
Sara Lawrence  
Heff and Julie Potter  
Adam Summers  
William Verdery

## Maturango Museum of the IWV

100 E. Las Flores Ave., Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Open every day (except major holidays)

10 am - 5 pm

### Staff

Debbie Benson, Museum Director  
Maureen Goff, Store Manager/Buyer  
Sandy Rogers, Archaeology Curator  
Elaine Wiley, History Curator  
Sherry Brubaker, Natural History Curator  
Julie Stephens, Finance Manager  
Fran Van Valkenburgh, Membership  
Andrea Pelch, Art Gallery Coordinator  
Joann Barbee, Assistant Bookkeeper  
Nora Nuckles, Education Coordinator  
Linda Saholt, Petroglyph Tour Coord.  
Rachel Avery, Museum Assistant  
Sue Gilbert, Museum Assistant  
Nora Nuckles, Museum Assistant  
Nick Rogers, Museum Assistant  
Andrea Pelch, Newsletter Editor

### Committee Chairpersons

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Fran Rogers, Concerts  
Bev Hill, Docent League  
Dan Burnett, Finance  
Sandy Rogers, Lectures  
Elaine Wiley, Publications  
Bob Westbrook, Strategic Planning  
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Warren's Automotive



## Regularly Scheduled Meetings

- China Lake Astronomical Society: 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month, 7 pm
- China Lake Photographic Society: 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month, 7 pm
- Kerncrest Audubon Society: 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday bi-monthly [Jan, Mar, May, Sep, Nov, not July], 7 pm
- Docent League: 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month, 8:45 a.m., anyone welcome to attend

## Calendar of Events

Museum's Annual Dinner & Auction : Saturday, October 1  
Northern Owens Valley Field Trip : Saturday, October 8  
"Open Studio Tour" Weekend : Saturday & Sunday, October 15 & 16  
Pizza Factory Museum Fundraiser : all day Thursday, Oct 20  
Concert by Harpist Alexandra Calvert : Saturday, October 29, 7 pm

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### Our Tortoises Now Have Names

"Starful" by Megan Eberhardt

"Shlow-mo" by Grace

"Dash" by Damian

"Peaches" by Brooklyn Frank



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